
Clinton Middle School

Master Course Catalog

Core Course Descriptions

MATH & ALGEBRA 6-8

In Grade 6, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

In Grade 7, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

In Grade 8, instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

ELA 6-8

The skills and knowledge captured in the ELA/literacy standards are designed to prepare students for life outside the classroom. They include critical-thinking skills and the ability to closely and attentively read texts in a way that will help them understand and enjoy complex works of literature. Students will learn to use cogent reasoning and evidence collection skills that are essential for success in college, career, and life. The standards also lay out a vision of what it means to be a literate person who is prepared for success in the 21st century.

SOCIAL STUDIES 6-8

World Geography, World History, US History

SCIENCE 6-8

Physical Science, Life Science, Earth Systems

Elective Course Descriptions

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING (8th grade)

Be ready to explore building structures and designs. In this course, you will test your building and design skills for various competitions and activities from building the strongest, to the tallest or both with different media. Check out this hands-on approach to developing the best structures.

Key:

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18 weeks = $\frac{1}{2}$ the school year or 1 semester or 2 marking periods

36 weeks = 1 school year or 2 semesters or 4 marking periods

LIVING HISTORY (8th grade)

The “Living History” elective is designed to provide a hands-on learning experience for history. The course will be conducted using simulations and other role-playing activities to address all learning styles. Use your geography skills to escape the Zombie Apocalypse in “Outbreak”. Expand your ancient civilization and control the ancient world in “Empires” and “Romans”. Escape from slavery on the “Underground Railroad”. Fight to save the Union or be a rebel in the “Civil War”. Finally, participate in the ultimate *who done it* in the trial simulation “Verdict”.

ROBOTICS (8th grade)

Students learn about the impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program robotics and more.

INVESTIGATIVE RESEARCH (8th grade)

Students will research literary genres and their rules while applying those rules to real-life interests and scenarios. Work with your friends while learning the rules and processes of multiple genres. This class requires some creativity, working with others in groups, and presenting group material to the class.

MEDIA TECH (7th grade)

Students play the role of technology in motion, both in our everyday lives and on the big screen! What does it take to make the unrealistic reality? Find out in this nine week course that will explore the skills needed to bring ideas and imagination to life!

PROBABILITY & STATISTICS (7th grade)

Ever wondered what the probability of winning a rock, paper, scissors game is or what the favorite movies of Clinton Middle School students are? In this course, you will explore these topics and more while creating your own game of probability, as well as sharing results from your own personal data collection.

CODING (7th grade)

Have you ever wondered how computer websites, animations, and games are created? Have you ever wanted to create one of your own? CS Discoveries 1 introduces students to computer science as a vehicle for problem solving, communication, and personal expressions, ultimately leading to students creating and designing websites, animations, and games. This class focuses on the visible aspects of computing and computer science, while encouraging students to see where computer science exists around them and how they can engage with it as a tool for exploration and expression.

HISTORICAL FICTION 101 (7th grade)

What is your favorite book you have ever read? Who is your favorite author of all time? Ever wonder how stories come to life, simply by putting words on paper? Find out in this engaging class where we will discover how to bring words to life and turn ideas into novels! Maybe there is a famous writer in you...

MYTHOLOGY (7th grade)

In this course we will be exploring stories, themes, and ideas from several different popular ancient pantheons. Be ready to learn about dramatic ancient stories about gods and heroes. Greek, Norse, and Egyptian mythology have a significant impact on modern culture and contain insights into how people of the past lived, worshiped

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and explained the world around them. Students will get to improve language, reading, and narrative crafting skills as well as study some great stories from the past.

FINANCE & BUSINESS (6th grade)

The game of LIFE - Financial Edition! This hands-on, real-life, project-based course will provide students with basic understandings of career salaries, expenses, budgeting, saving, and so much more. Students will walk away with a comprehensive set of tools to assist them financially in the REAL game of life!

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING (6th grade)

Students are challenged to think big and toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They use what they've learned to design and model alternative energy sources, as well as evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.

CREATIVE WRITING (6th grade)

This course will give students experience in creating fliers and other graphic design materials for non-profits around Lenawee County. We will also be creating mock businesses and all of the materials needed to run and market them. In addition we will be writing short stories, experimenting with choral pieces, and many other creative projects that involve writing.

INVESTIGATIVE HISTORY (6th grade)

This course engages students as historians and geographers in training. Students will develop the skills that allow them to think, read, write, and speak like historians as well as focusing on gathering information and beginning to analyze it in new ways to answer geographic questions: where, what, why and so what? Students will develop/practice these skills through various fun activities.

HEALTH & PE

Using the Presidential Physical Fitness standards and the new Health Curriculum as presented by the State of Michigan, this class will allow you to branch out and explore all the different sciences and techniques behind personal levels of athleticism and physical fitness. This class is for all levels of ability and knowledge. It is a great way to learn how to stay healthy and be the best you, you can be.

Art 6: ART DESIGN

“Creativity takes courage.” - Henri Matisse

Do you have what it takes to be creative and have fun? Design 101 is a general introduction to the visual arts for 6th grade. This class provides students exposure to a variety of mediums (drawing, painting, and ceramics), learn compositional design, highlight artist and constructive art criticism. This class allows you to take a risk, learn from mistakes, and above all have fun creating with your hands and imagination.

Art 7: ART HISTORY

“History is remembered by its art, not its war machines.” - James Rosnequist.

Take a look at our past through the eyes of the artist living during that time. Art History provides an overview of art from around the world to the 7th grade. Students will analyze selected artist, movements, and techniques used throughout history. Students will also reflect on how art was/is used to record history, aid science and math fields as well as communicate languages. What would you want to create to remember a time within our current events?

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Art 8: ART CAREERS

“Choose a job you love and you’ll never work a day in your life.” - Confucius.

Art Careers allows students to reflect that being creative doesn’t stop after graduation, but may expand into a hobby or career. Students will be exposed to many successful art careers that are currently in high demand. Students will use problem solving, role play, and continue exploration with various mediums to satisfy their “clients”. Could you see yourself as a Video Game Illustrator, Athletic/Fashion Designer or maybe a Interior Designer, Architect, or Civil Engineer? The choice is yours.

CHOIR 6-8

Music is everywhere and all subjects all the time!!! Why music? Imagine your life without music! In Choir we develop skills in singing, reading and analyzing music, and performing! We learn how music relates to all the other subjects while preparing for performances and competitions. We incorporate drawing, writing, and drama into our lessons for greater connectivity and depth of understanding. Plus it’s FUN!!! And don’t worry...you NEVER have to sing by yourself unless you choose to do so! There are opportunities for excelling and extra competition with State Honors Choir and Solo & Ensemble. Step out of your box, and find your voice!

BAND 6-8

A class that explores your interests and talent using a variety of instruments and allows you many academic and competitive opportunities.

ENRICHMENT

Enrichment is a flexible and blended learning hour that provides opportunities for extensions to the existing curriculum. It excels as a chance for remediation, rationalization, and differentiation for all learners. Students are assigned an Enrichment teacher at each grade level, which shares a consistent hour, to allow students equal time with all core teachers, or to complete cooperative learning experiences and project based learning opportunities.

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